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MONTANA DNRC Conversation

A Newsletter of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation • Director Bud Clinch
Summer 2002

—COAL BED METHANE AND DNRC—

It's possible that development of coal bed methane (CBM) could provide millions of dollars of revenue and create hundreds of high paying jobs in Montana. On the other hand, its production is technologically complex and expensive, and it results in definite impacts to the residents and the environment. DNRC will play a major role as Montana works through the opportunities and the challenges presented by CBM.

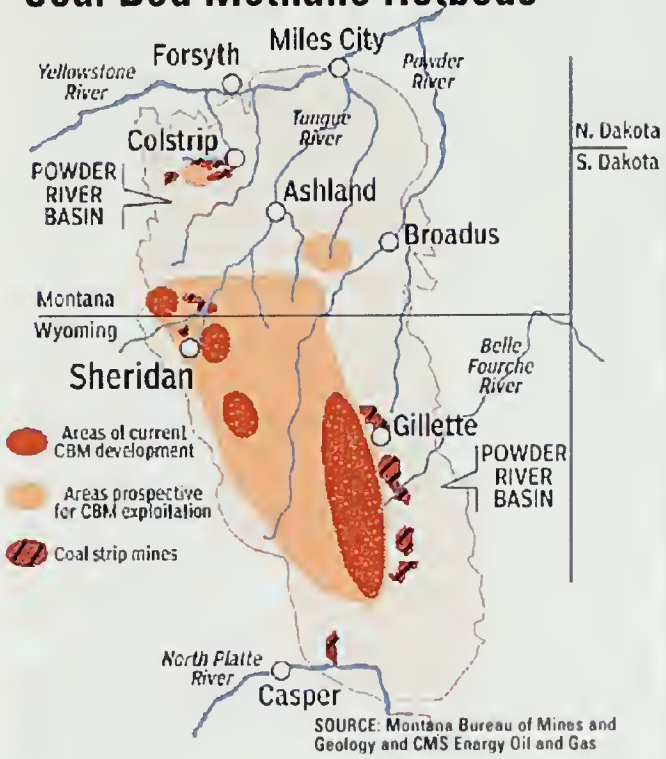
Clean-burning natural gas has become the "fuel of choice" for space heating and electrical generation, and it is an important feedstock for making industrial chemicals and fertilizers. Because natural gas is very difficult and expensive to import from overseas in cryogenic tankers, most U.S. supplies are produced in North America and transported by pipeline. The continuing demand and increased price have created a market for "unconventional" natural gas.

Natural gas from coal seams, more commonly known as coal bed methane, is considered "unconventional" because it differs from "conventional" natural gas in both its formation and its extraction. Vast quantities of sub-bituminous coal were laid down about 60 million years ago, during the early Tertiary geologic time period. Methane gas was formed as bacteria helped decompose the lush plant life that grew, died, and was eventually buried in the bogs and swamps during this period. This gas, called "biogenic" gas (to distinguish it from gas formed by thermal alteration of organic substances or "thermogenic" gas), became trapped in the molecular structure of the coal. Eventually the coal matured and developed cracks, called "cleats," which formed void spaces in the rock-like coal and allowed it to hold significant quantities of water. The coal aquifer serves not only to store water, but the hydrostatic pressure of the water keeps the methane gas trapped within the coal seam. "Swamp gas," "fire damp," or "coal bed methane" all describe a natural gas that is identical to the gas delivered for residential and industrial fuel, CH_4, or methane.

Production of CBM requires that the coal aquifer be de-pressurized by removing substantial quantities of water. When the pressure has been reduced sufficiently, the methane gas desorbs from the coal and moves into

Coal Bed . . . continued on page 2

Coal Bed Methane Hotbeds



Used with the permission of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology

"To help ensure Montana's land and water resources provide benefits for present and future generations."

Coal Bed . . . continued from page 1

the fractures (cleats), which allow it to travel toward a well. CBM projects areas have customarily been drilled on 40-acre spacing or 16 wells per section; however, according to Oil and Gas Conservation Division Administrator Tom Richmond, wider spacing has been found to be as effective and has reduced the number of wells drilled to 80-acre spacing or 8 per section.

Richmond said that today about 8 percent of total U.S. natural gas demand is supplied by CBM. Regionally, much of the CBM interest is in the Powder River Basin in southeastern Montana and northeastern Wyoming (see map on page 1), which has reserves estimated to exceed 39 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Wyoming has approximately 8,500 producing CBM wells, has been developing CBM since the mid-1980s, and controls about two-thirds of the geographical extent of the basin. Montana's CBM production is currently limited to the CX Ranch Field in Big Horn County. This 250-well pilot project is now the third largest producing natural gas field in the state. Because of this pilot project, Big Horn County has risen from the14th largest gas-producing county in 1999 to the 4th largest in 2001, Richmond noted.

Serious concerns surround CBM development. A major issue is water, both the quantity and the quality of the water produced in connection with CBM. Groundwater from coal aquifers is the primary source of water for many Powder River Basin residents.

The early stage of production of a CBM reservoir was often called "dewatering," a term that conveys the idea of removing all of the water from the coal aquifer. Although large quantities of water are produced, and continuous pumping is required throughout the life of the well to maintain pressure reduction and continue gas extraction, the aquifer is not totally dewatered. However, water levels may be lowered in nearby wells, flows from springs in the area may be reduced, and persons using water from those sources may be affected.

Like groundwater throughout Montana, the quality of the produced CBM water is variable across the Powder River Basin. Generally, it is safe for consumption by humans, domestic animals, and wildlife. CBM water in Montana meets all primary and most secondary drinking water standards. Although the sodium level is not particularly high, the absence of calcium and magnesium ions causes an elevated sodium absorption ratio, which has a detrimental effect on the structure of clay soils and may limit the potential of using CBM water for irrigation.

Concerns like these led to the formation of the Powder River Controlled Groundwater Area and the creation of a Technical Advisory Committee within DNRC's Water Resources Division (see related article). CBM companies are required to create water-monitoring plans and submit reports. They must also sign agreements with nearby landowners and groundwater users to the effect that any decreased flow will be replaced with water of a similar quantity and quality. And, there is a moratorium on any further development of CBM until completion of a statewide CBM environmental impact statement (EIS).

The three lead agencies associated with CBM in Montana—the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation (BOGC), Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)—issued a draft EIS in January 2002. As of this writing, the three agencies and the EIS contractor are reviewing and preparing responses to the more than 10,000 comments received during the 90-day public comment period that closed in April. Comments and input have come from various federal agencies, several Wyoming state agencies, Indian tribes, environmental organizations, agricultural and water user groups, and energy companies. All issues are to be addressed though this comprehensive EIS process. The Final EIS and Record of Decision are scheduled to be released sometime this year.

CBM development in Montana will involve significant efforts by several DNRC divisions.

The Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation (BOGC) administers the regulatory program on private and state-owned lands. Oil and Gas Conservation Division staff are responsible for approving individual well permits, reviewing project and water management plans, and preparing recommendations to the board for approval of development projects (250 to 500 wells in one location), well density (spacing requests), and, potentially, unitization of CBM fields. Division staff will also provide on-the-ground compliance monitoring and enforcement of regulations and approved plans. The division will receive the customary well completion reports, electric well logs (logs of scientific data that describe the well's geology, depth, composition, etc.,

Coal Bed . . . continued on page 3

—DIRECTOR'S AWARD—

Because of his hard work and positive attitude, CSD's Dan Bushnell, public information specialist, won the DNRC Director's Award for Superior Achievement in Fiscal Year 2002.

Dan was recognized for his extraordinary contribution in gathering public comment and disseminating public information using all realms of the media. Dan also continued developing the department website apprising the public about fire, timber salvage, and environmental issues, as well as loan, grant, and contracting opportunities. His dedication to the mission of DNRC was cited, as well.

Congratulations to Dan!

PHOTO BY RACHEL BUSHNELL

DNRC Public Information Specialist Dan Bushnell

Coal Bed *continued from page 2*

in great detail), water-monitoring information, and data similar to that received for conventional oil and gas operations. Well production and other statistics will be available to the public and industry, as well as to other regulatory programs. BOGC will establish well spacing and field rules for CBM development and will approve projects once they progress beyond exploration and into the development stage. A long standing Memorandum of Understanding with BLM regarding well spacing and field development proposals will serve as a model for cooperation with federal land managers in approving development plans that involve both federal and private/state land.

DNRC's Water Resources Division will also be involved. No water use permit is required to pump water out of the coal reservoir in order to allow the methane gas to escape from the cleats, because this is not a "beneficial use" of water. Instead, this water is an unwanted by-product of CBM production. However, someone may subsequently want to use this produced water for such purposes as irrigation. Billings Water Resources Regional Manager Keith Kerbel said that, according to Montana statute, once the CBM water reaches the surface and is to be put to use in a beneficial manner, the user is required to apply for a permit. Currently the Billings Regional Water Office is in the process of issuing beneficial water use permits for the CBM wells on the CX Ranch, and the permitted water will be used for such purposes as watering stock and controlling dust at the Spring Creek Mine.

A third DNRC division, the Trust Land Management Division (TLMD), is also potentially involved in the development of CBM. The school trust typically owns about 5 to 10 percent of the surface and minerals in a given area, and this is the case where development of CBM is a possibility. If CBM is commercially developed on state-owned land, the school trust beneficiaries would receive royalties in proportion to their ownership interest in the project. (A royalty is a share of the gross revenue generated from both the production and the marketing of CBM.) Since TLMD manages both the surface and the mineral estates on behalf of the school trust, it is interested in the responsible development of any school trust resource, such that it preserves the ability of the land to continue to generate income for the beneficiaries into the future. Therefore, TLMD's Minerals Management Bureau is also participating with BOGC and other DNRC divisions in the review and development of the joint state-federal programmatic EIS on CBM.

Overall, DNRC is helping to shape the future of natural gas development in Montana. As with all resource-related projects, we as an agency will work together for the benefit of the natural resources, the state, and its residents.

COAL BED METHANE

Powder River Basin Controlled Groundwater Area

This article, by Russ Levens, is reprinted from the Spring 2002 issue of DNRC's Water Lines

Methane gas that is trapped in coal seams beneath the Powder River Basin and other areas of Montana may be an important, untapped source of clean-burning energy. The potential for adverse impacts to the natural and human environment as a result of extracting methane from coal seams could be significant, however. To address the potential impacts to existing water users in the Powder River Basin, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) created the Powder River Basin Controlled Groundwater Area (PRBCGA) on December 15, 1999.

The primary component of the natural gas that heats many of our homes, methane gas, historically has come from "conventional" natural gas deposits in sandstone or other underground reservoirs. Conventional natural gas reservoirs occur where relatively permeable geologic formations are sealed by overlying rock, allowing natural gas released from black shale or even coal ("source rock") to accumulate in the permeable geologic formations ("reservoir rock"). Conventional natural gas reservoirs overlie, and are separate from, water and/or oil. Natural gas flows to the surface under the confining pressure of the reservoir when a well penetrates a conventional natural gas reservoir. Initially, natural gas is produced by itself, but eventually, as the reservoir is depleted, oil or water also is produced.

Reductions in water levels in wells and in flows to springs could be significant and will persist even after all the methane is extracted.

Coal bed methane (CBM) reservoirs are fundamentally different from conventional natural gas reservoirs. Methane formed during the conversion of organic matter to coal can be retained and trapped by water pressure within the pore structure and fractures of coal. Under these conditions, the source rock and the reservoir rock are the same, and there is no clear separation of gas and water as is found in conventional natural gas reservoirs. Water must be pumped from CBM reservoirs to reduce water pressure before methane can be produced. Eventually, the amount of water pumped declines, and methane flows to the surface under very low pressure (a few pounds per square inch). The quantity of water produced from a CBM field is much greater than is produced from a conventional natural gas field.

Extraction of CBM is a relatively simple but intensive process. Coal seams generally are less permeable than conventional natural gas reservoirs and are under much lower pressure. As a result, CBM wells are drilled much closer together than conventional natural gas wells. Continuous pumping of this dense network of wells will lower water pressure in coal seams, potentially for miles around CBM fields. These same coal seams are important aquifers that are the sources of water for numerous wells and springs used for stock watering and domestic purposes. Reductions in water levels in wells and in flows to springs could be significant and will persist even after all the methane is extracted.

PRBCGA is intended to protect existing water users from water level declines that could result from CBM development. PRBCGA requires CBM operators to monitor water withdrawals and hydrologic impacts and mitigate impacts to existing beneficial uses caused by CBM development. CBM operators must describe existing hydrologic resources, submit a monitoring and evaluation plan, and provide notice and water mitigation agreements to all water right holders within one-half mile of a CBM field in their application to the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation (BOGC) for well spacing and field rules.

MCA 85-2-521 also places requirements on CBM operators. This law, which was enacted in 2001, was drafted using some of the concepts that originally appeared in the PRBCGA.[1]

A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) administered by the DNRC Water Resources Division makes recommendations to BOGC on monitoring and mitigation of impacts to groundwater resources resulting from CBM development. TAC oversees groundwater monitoring and reporting requirements specified in PRBCGA and reviews groundwater data and scientific evidence related to PRBCGA. In addition, TAC developed a regional monitoring plan intended to address potential impacts to water levels and springs miles away from CBM fields.

1. This paragraph was not part of the original *Water Lines* article.

——ADMINISTRATOR RETIRES——

Forestry Division Administrator Don Artley retired on May 31, 2002, after 27 years with the department, to take a new job with the National Association of State Foresters (NASF). DNRC employees from Missoula and across Montana gathered on June 20 to honor Don for his service to the state. During that gathering, representatives from DNRC and the U.S. Forest Service recognized his contributions to both state government and state/federal/local interagency cooperation.

Don began working for the department in fire assessments, rose through the ranks to Deputy Administrator, and became Forestry Division Administrator/State Forester in July 1992. During his tenure, DNRC's influence stretched beyond the state's borders. Don chaired the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, the national wildfire coordinating organization. He was a member of the NASF Fire Committee, served on the Executive Board of the Keep Montana Green Association and on the Executive Board of the Montana/Idaho State Airshed Group, and was a member and strong supporter of the Montana Forest Stewardship Steering Committee.

Don's wonderful executive abilities and warm personality will be missed. His co-workers at DNRC wish him success in his new job and many happy years to come.

PHOTO BY KATI KRONEN

Retiring DNRC Forestry Division Administrator Don Artley

——NORTHWEST AREA MANAGER'S AWARD——

The Northwest Area Manager's Award was presented in recognition of outstanding effort and support during the Moose Fire Salvage and Rehabilitation Project in 2001 and 2002. Northwest Area Manager Jon Dahlberg honored these employees.

Ross Baty
Margaret Beck
Dan Cassidy
Mike Clark
Bud Clinch
Jeff Collins
Don Copple
Connie Daruk
Paul Engelman
Pete Evans
Gary Frank
Ted Giesey
Gary Hadlock
Craig Halford
Mark Hannah
Rick Komenda
Brian Long
Brian Manning
Jane Markland
Paul McKenzie
Scott McLeod
Mike McMahon
Norm Merz
Tony Nelson
Mike O'Herron
Donna Riebe
Glenda Rothacher
Bruce Rowland
Bob Sandman
Tom Schultz
Dan Seifert
Pete Seigmund
Terry Thorpe
Bob Traina
Pete Van Sickle
Marc Vessar
Jim Wallace
Allen Wolf

——ATTACKED!——

A funny thing happened the other day to a forester who works out of the Helena Unit Office. He got attacked by a wild critter. Although he barely escaped without serious bodily harm, he did have time to snap a roll of pictures while being mauled.

It would appear that a very belligerent and amorous male blue grouse took a dislike to DJ Bakken's pickup and proceeded to run into the road, blocking DJ's path. As DJ stepped from the vehicle, the grouse charged. DJ, at the cost of one leg, held the offended fowl off with his boot, managed to hop backward far enough to reach into the back seat of his truck, grabbed his trusty camera, and proceeded to shoot the infuriated bird a dozen times until the camera was empty.

This did nothing to phase the grouse, as it must have been on steroids or other drugs. It attempted to spur DJ with its 1/8-inch, razor-sharp spurs by flapping up into the air, continually charging and pecking. It almost removed the soles of DJ's Danners before he could finally break contact and jump back into the safety of the truck.

The bird proceeded to attempt to flatten the tires. DJ, at the risk of losing an arm, waved his hat out the window toward the bird, momentarily distracting it. That allowed DJ to hit the gas and escape, with the tire only partially disemboweled.

Although still a little shaken by the experience, DJ shared the story and showed the pictures of the perpetrator. That grouse had a shark-like, dead look to his eyes that would make mere biologists and land use specialists run for cover. The doctors were able to reattach the leg, and the Danners can be repaired—but, unfortunately, the tire is dead.

So keep a sharp eye out the next time you hear drumming in the woods. They're out there waiting.

PHOTO BY DJ BAKKEN

One mad grouse

——CENTRALIZED SERVICES DIVISION MERIT AWARDS——

This year the Centralized Services Division (CSD) Administrator's Award was given to seven employees who provided various types of assistance in preparing for and presenting the Wildland Engine Academy, which was held near Lewis and Clark Caverns last May. Award recipients were Emily Cooper, Jeff Dobb, Patty Greene, Janet Grinde, Kris Hardman, Don Howard, and Bill Miller.

Jeri Ann Logan, Kelly Lamoreux, and Carol Loomis also received a CSD Administrator's Award for their efforts in moving the department to Pay Plan 20 in only six months.

Finally, a CSD Special Appreciation Award went to Janice Yearry for implementing a new federal circular, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 34, which dramatically changed DNRC's asset management practices.

—THE MONTANA WATERCOURSE: EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE—

The Montana Watercourse has a mission to educate all adult and youth water users in the state. As former director Mary Ellen Wolfe pointed out, it "is really the only statewide water resource education program that provides both materials and training focused on Montana's water resources for both youth and adults." The program acts as a bridge between the technical expertise in the agencies and the thirst for understanding in our communities and schools.

DNRC has been instrumental in the formation and continued operation of the Montana Watercourse. According to Rich Moy, chief of DNRC's Water Management Bureau, DNRC has "a clear policy statement in the law (MCA 85-1-101) mandating a State Water Plan to improve water management in the state." The State Water Plan itself also recommends improving general knowledge of water issues. In 1989, Moy and Dennis Nelson, director of The Watercourse on the Montana State University (MSU) campus, co-founded the Montana Watercourse as part of an overall effort to address these concerns. It was conceived as an independent entity, with no stake in any watershed or political position.

Situated on the MSU campus, the Montana Watercourse is a hybrid between DNRC and MSU. The director, Karen Filipovich, is an employee of the DNRC Water Resources Division; the other staff members are MSU employees.

Montana Watercourse. . . *continued on page 8*

PHOTO BY RAB CUMMINGS

Clark Fork Watershed Tour for Teachers

Montana Watercourse *continued from page 7*

The program is loosely affiliated with four other programs under the umbrella of "The Watercourse Center" in Bozeman, and a fifth associated program is based in Colorado. The Bozeman-based programs are listed below.

- **Project Archeology** develops an archeology-related curriculum for grades 3-12.
- **Healthy Water, Healthy People** provides water quality testing kits for grades K-12.
- **Native Waters** promotes respect for tribal water resources through the establishment of community- and reservation-based water and youth leadership programs.
- **Project WET** (Water Education for Teachers) is an international water education program that is headquartered in Bozeman. It develops curricula and other teaching materials aimed at K-12 students. These materials are delivered to teachers through a network of state WET coordinators, who develop state-specific water education programs.
- **The Montana Watercourse** develops and provides water-related education to the general public: youth and adults are served equally. It is the only Watercourse Center program that focuses exclusively on Montana.

K-12 and teacher education is overseen by the Montana WET Coordinator, Pete Schade, who is on the staff of the Montana Watercourse and is one of the state facilitators in the national Project WET network. Schade delivers WET and other water education curricula and promotes water resources education to teachers through workshops, water festivals, and watershed tours (week-long, graduate-level courses on rivers like the Clark Fork, Blackfoot, and Upper Yellowstone).

The Montana Watercourse's adult, community education efforts are directed to the specific topics and needs of landowners and other water users throughout the state. Its projects include water rights workshops and a book, wetlands workshops and publications, volunteer water quality monitoring, and helping people understand their watersheds and establish local watershed groups. The program works with other collaborators to create interest, understanding, and action, and it brings the technical expertise that is available from a wide array of experts at state and federal resource agencies, local conservation districts, and many other local groups to a broader audience.

One example of this collaborative approach is the Know Your Watershed Program. Filipovich, the Montana Watercourse director, administers the program, has taken a strong role in promoting the Know Your Watershed approach, and supports watershed efforts through such activities as working with the Montana Watershed Coordinators Council and facilitating watershed groups. The Montana Watercourse works with local sponsors like conservation districts and other stakeholders to develop an event specially tailored to address the scientific and socio-economic issues in a specific watershed. The neutral workshop setting gives citizens a way to learn about their watershed and a forum to discuss common interests and sources of conflict. In addition to the immediate educational value, most of the 14 workshops held in Montana have resulted in the formation of a watershed group that actively plays a role in determining management priorities and options in each watershed.

The Montana Watercourse is always seeking new opportunities to collaborate with specialists within DNRC to identify and meet water resource education needs. It is looking for ways to work together to ensure that all water users have the information and tools they need to act as responsible stewards of our waters.

To learn more about the Montana Watercourse, or to discuss an idea for a cooperative project, call 406-994-6671, or visit the website at www.mtwatercourse.org.

—DNRC PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS—

This summer many DNRC employees are being honored for their years of service to the public. Certificates and lapel pins are awarded in recognition.

30 Years

Ted Giesey, Kalispell; Jack Isaacs, Plains; Mark Lewing, Hamilton; Carole Massman, Helena; and Tim Murphy, Missoula.

25 Years

Ray Beck, Chuck Brasen, Penny Smith, and Garry Williams, all of Helena; Jim Costamagna and Mark Hannah, both of Missoula; Bob Dillon, Billings; Bobb Lawrence, Dillon; and Bob Sandman of Olney and Swan Lake.

20 Years

D. J. Bakken, Tim Hall, Jeff Lustgraaf, Pam Smith, and Ed Tovey, all of Helena; and Ken Gragg and Bob Rich, both of Missoula.

15 Years

Bill Greiman, Milt Popovich, and Bill Uthman, all of Helena; Larry Bush and Denise Lommen, both of Missoula; Craig Halford, Kalispell; Jeannie Markle, Glasgow; Diana Martin, Bozeman; and Steve Sasaki, Billings.

10 Years

Neil Carlson, Sue Clark, Denise Lommen, Chris Tootell, and Deb Wagner, all of Missoula; Albert Aamold, Ann Goetze, Sue Hoell, Melvin Kroll, and Jeff Williams, all of Helena; David Jones and Pat Troyer, both of Kalispell; Calvin Minemyer, Plains; Jeff Roe, Miles City; and Wendell Williams, Bozeman.

5 Years

Joe Bachurski, Steve Bailey, Sheri Dorathy, Robert Marlatt, Stan Meredith, Rick Morrill, James Price, and Steve Tiegen, all of Kalispell; Rob Gustafson, Tony Liane, Julie McNichol, Steve Puyear, Linda Robinson, Dave Williams, and Carolyn Wolf, all of Missoula; Dan Bushnell, Connie Daruk, Rick Duncan, Kelly Lamoreux, Carol Loomis, Mike Mikota, Mary Nicholes, Ned Pettit, and Tom Schultz, all of Helena; Brian Robbins, Anaconda; George Hudak, Billings; Craig Nelson, Clearwater; Steve Dobson, Conrad; Darrell Hystad, Glendive; Mike Wiederhold, Lincoln; and Peter Evans, Olney.

Bud Clinch (left) and Mark Lewing

Left to right: Emily Cooper, Patty Greene, Bill Miller, and Ann Bauchman

Awards picnic in Helena

—FORESTRY MERIT AWARDS—

The Forestry Division Administrator's Award for Fiscal Year 2002 went to Mark Lennon for his outstanding performance as the Western Montana Region Community Forester. Mark works out of the Polson Field Office.

Forestry Division also awarded a number of Certificates of Appreciation. Certificate recipients are listed below in alphabetical order, along with an indication of the work that earned the award.

Employees (all)	Missoula Unit	Upgrading unit office facilities
Kathryn Engel	Hamilton Unit	Award-winning 2001 Ravalli County Fair exhibit, oversight of grant program, others
Norman Fortunate	Missoula Unit	Helping Anaconda Unit with Private Forestry Assistance (PFA) Program
Ken Gragg	Budget and Facilities Management Bureau	Maintaining appearance of Forestry Division (FD) grounds
Lynn Gruszie	Budget and Facilities Management Bureau	Designing and maintaining FD website
Jonathan Hansen	Missoula Unit	Fire Odyssey 2001 (Incident Commander; Strategic Action Committee's Operations Section Chief)
Jon Hayes	SWLO	Sula Recovery Project public and media relations
Jerry Marshall	Fire and Aviation Management Bureau	Providing technical support to bureau's Training Section
Eric Norris	Missoula Unit	Helping Anaconda Unit with PFA Program
Betty Jo Powell	Fire and Aviation Management Bureau	Implementing State Nursery software tracking program
Brian Quilter	Service Forestry Bureau	State Nursery; assumption of seed and pesticide programs
Brian Robbins	Anaconda Unit	Helping Anaconda Unit with PFA Program
Paula Rosenthal	Service Forestry Bureau	Developing National Fire Plan program; managing funding
Terry Vaughn	Anaconda Unit	Forming Montana State Prison firefighting crew

Tony Liane (left) and Ken Gragg

Tony Liane (left) and Brian Quilter

—TRUST LAND MERIT AWARDS—

Julie David, Brenda Elwell, Gary Frank, Ed Tinsley, and Wanda Walks received Certificates of Appreciation for outstanding service and support to the Trust Land Management Division (TLMD). Three Centralized Services Division employees, Jeff Dobb, Dan Bushnell, and Mike Mikota, also received this award.

Gary Frank was also recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation for his diligent effort during a time of transition, filling the role of the vacant Forest Products Section supervisor while simultaneously continuing to perform his own duties as Resource Management Section supervisor.

Northwest Area Manager Jon Dahlberg recognized numerous individuals for their outstanding support in accomplishing the Moose Fire Salvage and Restoration Project. See related article on page 5.

Curt Tesmer and Chuck Barone were recognized by Central Land Office (CLO) for their outstanding support in accomplishing the Maxey Ridge Fire Salvage and Restoration Project.

Finally, Connie Daruk was recognized as the recipient of the Trust Land Management Division Administrator's Award for Fiscal Year 2002. Her efforts during the past year have been critical in ensuring a smooth transition through three division administrators and six different area managers in eight months, while also monitoring and allocating budgets during critical budget shortfalls.

Tom Schultz (left) and Connie Daruk

Left to right: Bud Clinch, Brenda Elwell, and Julie David

Awards picnic

DNRConversation is an employee newsletter published quarterly by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Please send news articles or ideas for articles to your division liaison or to any member of the Editorial Board.

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Bud Clinch (left) with a special award for Mike Mikota

Forestry awards picnic in Missoula

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